

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 01997 281243Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 224

UNCLAS COLOMBO 1997

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG,CE

SUBJ: EFFECT OF AFGHAN COUP ON NON-ALIGNED MEETING

REF: ACOLOMBO 1993; B. COLOMBO 1987

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED FRONT PAGE FRIDAY 28 APRIL
AFTERNOON 'CEYLON OBSERVER' UNDER FOUR-COLUMN LEAD,
'WILL NON-ALIGNED MEET IN COLOMBO? KABUL TALKS: DECISION
TODAY'
2. BEGIN TEXT: A DECISION ON THE FUTURE OF THE KABUL MEETING
OF THE NON-ALIGNED BUREAU WILL BE TAKEN TODAY, MR. A.S.C.
HAMEED, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAID THIS MORNING.
ASKED WHETHER THE VENUE OF THIS MEETING WHICH WAS SCHEDULED
TO BE HELD BETWEEN MAY 6-11 IN THE CAPITAL OF AFGANISTAN
WHERE A COUP TOOK PLACE YESTERDAY WOULD BE SHIFTED TO COLOMBO,
MR. HAMEED DECLINED TO COMMENT.
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS LAST NIGHT STUDYING THE FIRST REPORT
REACHING COLOMBO ABOUT THE FIGHTING IN KABUL. BY THIS MORNING
IT WAS CLEAR THAT A COUP HAD IN FACT TAKEN PLACE.
DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS IN COLOMBO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SRI LANKA
WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP, IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT
A DECISION TO SHIFT THE BUREAU MEETING WOULD BE TAKEN UNILATER-
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LLY.
'OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL BE CONSULTED. IT IS LIKELY THAT
SOME OF THE BUREAU MEMBERS THEMSELVES (WILL) GET IN TOUCH WITH
COLOMBO TODAY TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF THE MEETING,' INFORMED
SOURCES SAID.
IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KABUL AGENDA, MOST BUREAU
MEMBERS ARE UNLIKELY TO FAVOR A POSTPONEMENT.

IF A NEW GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN OFFICE IN AFGHANISTAN, BUREAU
COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO ACCORD RECOGNITION TO THIS GOVERNMENT
BEFORE ATTENDING A MEETING THERE.

MR. HAMEED WAS DUE TO LEAD THE SRI LANKA DELEGATION TO KABUL.

END TEXT.

WRIGGINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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